

**REMARKS**

**INTRODUCTION:**

This preliminary amendment is being filed in order to improve the form of the above referenced application. Claims 7 and 12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is included in this amendment.

It is noted that one continuation application is being filed with respect to claim 7 and another continuation application is being filed with respect to claim 12.

**CONCLUSION:**

There being no outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited. Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters. If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

STEIN, MCEWEN & BUI, LLP

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

5/9/06

By: \_\_\_\_\_



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